COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the *31st of July 1933.*
16th of Karkadagam 1108.

The Council met for the Budget Session of 1108 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ernakulam at half-past Eleven of the clock with M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar Avl., Ag. Diwan and Ex-officio President in the Chair. Messrs. C. Barton Wright, M. A. Chakko, A. G. Menon, K. G. Nayar, E. Ikkanda Warriar, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan, A. I. Mani, K. Mohamed Seethi, C. A. Ouseph and A. R. Menon were absent.

Swearing in of new Members.

M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar Avl., Ag. Diwan and Ex-officio President and Messrs. Thomas Manjuran (Government Advocate and Law Officer) and K. Narasimha Pai (Ag. Director of Public Instruction), took and subscribed the oath of allegiance.

Opening Statement of the President.

President.—Hon'ble Members of the Cochin Legislative Council and my good old friends:—

Our good and Cochin loving Diwan Mr. C. G. Herbert having had to be deputed once more on State business to London, this time to give evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Select Committee on the Indian Constitutional Reforms, His Highness the Maharaja has again been graciously pleased to entrust me with the responsibility of carrying on the administration of the State during Mr. Herbert's absence. Thus it has become once more my proud and precious privilege to accord to you, my old friends, my cordial welcome to another meeting of this Council. I repeat what I said on a previous occasion, *viz.*, that I am only one among you, and I am confident that you also are pleased to welcome me back to your midst.

I expected that Mr. Herbert would return in time to preside over this important Budget Session of the Council. In fact he had arranged to sail from Marseilles on the 14th of this month, and if he had done so, he would have returned yesterday. This he could not do for unavoidable reasons. Subsequently he arranged to leave at least on the 21st of this month so that he might be here next Sunday and thus preside over the second

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week of this session. But he was commanded by His Majesty the King Emperor to attend the Royal Garden Party given on the 20th of this month and he was not able to sail on the 21st. Thus the pleasure that should rightly have been his of presiding over this session has become mine. There is no unmixed pleasure in this world and you will pardon me if I say that the august place of the Presidentship of this Council is no bed of roses. Even if it is a bed of roses, each rose has its own thorns and my only consolation is that, surrounded as I am by sincere and sympathetic friends, I will not be made to feel their prick.

The future constitution of India is in the melting pot, and what its final shape will be is in the bosom of God. The destinies of the Indian States are inextricably connected with those of British India, and it is the hope of all that some scheme of Federation will issue out of the deliberations now going on in England. It behoves all the Indian States to keep their houses clean and be prepared to play their part as honourable and responsible units in the future Federal Constitution of Greater India.

A Representative or Legislative Assembly, call it what you may, based on a broad franchise is a *sine quo non* for a stable constitution in any State. We have forestalled the necessity for this by appointing nine months ago a Franchise Committee consisting of the best brains in the State and we look forward to the proposals of that committee, with the hope that they will be liberal and will result in the constitution of a council representative of all interests in the State. Time is always on the move, and the new Legislative Council has to be organised in the course of the next 8 or 9 months. I would therefore urge, on behalf of you, on the Franchise Committee under the chairmanship of the veteran Leader of the House to close their labours as expeditiously as possible and favour the Government with their report. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." and I am sure that our colleagues who are serving on the committee will kindly see that the report is sent up sufficiently early, as to admit of a decision being reached by Government and electoral rolls prepared in time for the next election to be held at the latest in Edavam 1109.

The whole world is in a state of economic turmoil and nobody can foresee what the future has in store for the denizens of this tiny planet. Even a President Roosvelt with eleven millions of unemployed men to tackle; a Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald with very difficult economic problems of the Empire to solve; the Facist Leaders Mussolini and Hitler of Italy,

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and Germany and the statesmen responsible for the Soviet Russia, have not been able to find out satisfactory solutions not only for the existing difficulties but also of those that loom large before the world in the future. Prudence therefore requires that we should concentrate ourselves now on the present and see that what we do at present does not, so far as it is possible for human intelligence, lead us to any embarrassment in the future. The budget that the Finance Member will present before you in the course of an hour or two has been drawn up bearing this aspect of the present position prominently in mind. We have only taken care of the present and the immediate future in our budget estimates, as you will see instantly. We cannot safely venture to go beyond that.

The bonds of destiny are unbreakable, and I feel that there is a bond of destiny between you and my humble self or what we Hindus call "Karma Bandham." I never thought that, when I addressed you on the last occasion I had the honour of presiding over this Council, and appealed to you to extend to your parting colleague all kindness, consideration and sympathy, in conducting the proceedings of this House, I would be vouchsafed a repetition of the honour. Now that destiny has again made the honour mine, I appeal to you once more most earnestly to treat me as one of you and to help me in carrying on the business of this House in that orderly and dignified manner which has been the tradition of this House for the last one decade.

I miss the pleasant face of our veteran Deputy President, Dr. A. G. Menon and hope that you will all join with me in wishing him speedy recovery from his present illness.

Questions and Answers.

Longest hours of work and smallest wages.

1. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state the longest hours of work and the smallest wages, prevalent in our State ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The longest hours of work generally prevalent in the State are 12 hours.

The lowest wage prevalent generally is 3 annas.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do the Government consider this state of affairs to be a permissible state of affairs?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I don't exactly understand the question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do the Government think that this is a state of affairs that can be tolerated by the State?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Working 12 hours a day—I don't think.

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